7 MAY 4 1953

Men Wanted

MISSIONARY RESEARCH LIBRARY NEW YORK CITY

SMALL CHRISTIAN MISSIONS
THE ELEVENTH HOUR
BE GUILTY OF TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

MEN WANTED!

WOMEN have done a noble work in missions all down the centuries, and there are far more women than men in missionary work today. Missionary societies still need women and continue to accept them for service, because there are certain kinds of work that only women can do and should do. We fully recognize the value of their service and we commend them heartily for all they have accomplished, but we wonder why there should be so few *men* by comparison. The great work of foreign missions never stood in such dire need for *men* as it does today, and it is of this need for *men* that we now write.

As man to man, we address this appeal to our Christian brothers. The cry of foreign missions now, as never before, is MEN WANTED. Too long has the work of foreign missions been left to women. The missionary work of the church has been left to the Women's Missionary Society. We scarcely ever hear of a *Men's* Missionary Society. "Men have not time to attend missionary meetings," is one excuse frequently given; yet men do have time to attend many other meetings for other purposes. Thousands of Christian business men find time to gather weekly for luncheons, and God blesses their fellowship and labors; so lack of time evidently is not the reason why *men* do not meet to further the work of missions. It would revolutionize missionary work if the *men* would take it up as seriously and devotedly as have their wives and mothers.

The need for *men* recruits is desperate, not only to press the advance into the enemy's territory, but also to hold the ground already gained. Again we cry out, MEN WANTED!

Here are some reasons why foreign missionary work is primarily a *man's* job:

1) The Great Commission was given to *men*. The Lord Jesus chose *men* to be His disciples. He sent forth *men* as His witnesses while He was yet on earth, and He told the *brethren* to go into all the world with the gospel. We have slipped here, and have failed our Lord in not emphasizing the Great Commission primarily as a *man's* job.

2) The standards of pagan lands call for *men*. The native mind demands that a man be the leader of any work. Because of the lack of *men,* women have had to take the lead again and again, and we concede that God has overruled this situation in many places. Our sisters have gone forth with the Word of life, they have won converts to the Lord, and they have won the respect of those converts. Yet we cannot get away from the fact that in most foreign lands the father is the head of the family, and the *men* are leaders of the community. This prominence of *men* in positions of authority is also the rule in the Bible.

Missionaries are aliens in a foreign land, and must often contact government officials for various reasons, such as permission to put up a building or to take a journey. When women have had to stand before officials, the cause of missions in the estimation of the

people has been lowered. Indifference and opposition from foreign officials have often been due to our lack of men to make such official representation.

3) Pioneer work in foreign countries requires *men*. Long journeys must be made on foot or on miserable conveyances. The climate in most foreign mission lands is trying, the food coarse, and housing uncomfortable. In some fields the missionary must build his own house or supervise men who build it for him. The living conditions are specially difficult in pioneer work. This kind of work should not be left for women to do. The very hazards of the life make foreign missions a *man's* job.

4) Men and boys must be reached by *men*. It takes a *man* to reach men and boys effectively. Boys' work at home is generally done by men; how far would we get if this work were left to women only? Where will the next generation of leaders for the native churches come from if we do not win the boys for Christ *now*? This is a *man's* job.

5) The native church needs the counsel of *men*. God's Word ordains that *men* shall be leaders in the church; and it takes a *man* to lead men. *Men* missionaries are needed in the native church as advisers, too. They can enter into the native man's problems in a way that no woman ought to be expected to do.

Men have not hesitated to go to the ends of the earth for fame and glory; why should *we* be slow to go for Jesus Christ? Men have traveled far afield just for the thrill of enter-

ing unknown lands; can *we* escape the challenge to enter these same lands for Christ – when half of the world is still untouched by the gospel? Men have not held back from going out to foreign lands as representatives of their governments; shall *we* disobey the command of Christ to go forth as ambassadors for Him? Merchants have braved the dangers of lonely foreign trails to make money for themselves; shall we do less to win souls for Christ?

Shame on us *men,* that in some of the farthest outposts of the world many things of western manufacture reached there before the gospel. Shame on us *men,* that the tobacco companies have fairly covered the world with their products, and that cigarettes get in before the message of life is given to those distant peoples. Shame on us *men,* that we can smugly sing "My Jesus, I love Thee," and yet scarcely find a few minutes a day to pray for the heathen, and that so few of us have dared to go to them with the gospel!

MEN WANTED! Christian brother, how are you answering the call?

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